

Garner Town Council  
Work Session Minutes  
January 26, 2016

The Garner Town Council met in a Work Session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 in the Town Hall Council Meeting Room.

Present: Mayor Ronnie Williams, Mayor ProTem Kathy Behringer, Council Member Jackie Johns, Council Member Buck Kennedy, Council Member Ken Marshburn, Council Member Gra Singleton.

Staff Present: Rodney Dickerson-Interim Town Manager, John Hodges-Asst. Town Manager-Development Services, Mari Howe-Downtown Development Director, Michael Gammon-Budget & Special Projects Manager, Brad Bass-Planning Director, Rick Mercier-Communications Manager

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Ronnie Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Council Member Marshburn requested to add a closed session to the agenda per N.C.G.S. 143-318-11(a)(6) "to discuss the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, or conditions of appointment of an individual public officer or employee."

Town Attorney Bill Anderson requested to add a closed session to the agenda per N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) "to discuss possible real estate acquisition and the Town's negotiating position regarding such real estate".

Action: Agenda revised to include these items.

Motion: Kennedy  
Second: Behringer  
Vote: Unanimous

Action: Agenda approved.

**REPORTS**

**Wake County Transit Plan**

Presenter: Tim Maloney, Wake County Planning Director

Mr. Maloney presented an update of the Recommended Wake County Transit Plan and explained that the Plan is a joint effort between Wake County, Go Triangle, CAMPO, RDU, City of Raleigh, NC State University, Town of Cary, and the Research Triangle Park. Wake County is working with each municipality regarding what needs to be included in the plan to address transit needs in the respective communities. Currently, the Recommended Transit Plan is broken into "Four Big Moves".

1. Stronger Regional Connections
  - Commuter rail from Garner to west Durham (37 miles) – NCRR Corridor
  - Future rail connection into Johnston County and possibly to Wake Forest
  - Expanded regional express bus from Raleigh to RDU, Chapel Hill and Durham

2. Connections to all Communities
  - Bus links from all towns to the urban core
  - New links between some smaller communities
  - Combination of 30 and 60 minute all day service, peak service, and commuter rail
3. Frequent, Reliable Bus Service in Urban Areas
  - Increase the frequent 15 minute service from 17 miles to 83 miles
  - Weekend and evening services will expand
  - Bus Rapid Transit with 15 minute service in key corridors (approx.. 20 miles of BRT)
4. Enhanced Access to Transit
  - Expansion and improvement to many fixed route services across the urban core
  - Expansion and improvement to non-fixed route paratransit services in rural areas
  - Provide 50% match for towns to establish local services

It is anticipated the Recommended Transit Plan will be funded by:

- Half-cent local sales tax
- New \$7 county vehicle registration fee
- Increase from \$5 to \$8 regional vehicle registration fee
- Existing 5% vehicle rental tax
- Fare box revenue

The next step is for Wake County to adopt the Transit Plan in the Spring of 2016. If approved, a Referendum will be pursued in November 2016.

Council Member Marshburn asked if the plan would utilize the tracks of the current railroad system. Mr. Maloney explained that in some areas the same lines would be used, but the plan incorporates tracks in specific areas. The NC Railroad and Norfolk Southern have been involved in this process and are agreeable with this plan.

Mr. Maloney provided an overview of the Recommended Plan Cost through 2027; indicating the project will cost over \$2B for the first 10 years.

Action: Report only; no action.

#### **Financial Report**

Presenter: Michael Gammon, Budget & Special Projects Manager

Mr. Gammon provided an overview of the Town's current financial position. At this time, all departments and programs are within budget and no shortfalls or concerning trends have been identified or are expected.

Action: Report only; no action.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Rand Mill Road Land Title Question

Presenter: William E. Anderson, Attorney

Mr. Anderson stated he is working with an attorney who represents a purchaser of 208 Griffin Street regarding a 30 foot wide piece of land which presents a title problem to the buyer and seller. This property was the original location of the Town's Public Works Department and was overlooked when the property was sold. Mr. Anderson said the best way to clear up the deeds was to execute a Quit Claim deed for this 30 foot wide piece of land.

Action: Authorize Execution of Quit Claim Deed

Motion: Marshburn  
Second: Singleton  
Vote: Unanimous

### **Town of Garner Flag**

Presenter: Rick Mercier, Communications Manager

Mayor Williams has requested that we explore the possibility of creating an official Town of Garner Flag. Council Members Kennedy, Johns and Marshburn were in agreement but felt the challenge would be the best way to define Garner on a flag. Mr. Dickerson cautioned against too many identifiers for the town. Council Member Singleton felt the public identified with the Town of Garner by its 'great place to be' logo – it's bright, bold and simple. Mayor Pro Tem Behringer felt this topic should be discussed at the Council's Planning Retreat.

Action: Place on Retreat Agenda for discussion as part of possible rebranding effort.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion: Marshburn  
Second: Singleton  
Vote: Unanimous

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION AND ADJOURN:** – 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stella Gibson